

(continued)

- All counties will submit a copy of their comprehensive weed management plan to the MT Department of Agriculture and will implement a Noxious Weed Fund. Therefore, all counties will qualify for distribution of funds from Section 3.

FISCAL IMPACT:

	<u>FY2002 Difference</u>	<u>FY2003 Difference</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Distribution to counties	100,000	600,000
<u>Transfers:</u>		
State Special - Noxious weed	\$0	\$500,000
Trust Funds - Resource Indemnity Trust	\$0	\$(500,000)
<u>Revenues:</u>		
State Special - Noxious weed	\$100,000	\$100,000
State Special – Highway nonrestricted	\$(100,000)	\$(100,000)
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Expenditure):</u>		
State Special - Noxious weed	\$0	\$0
State Special – Highway nonrestricted	\$(100,000)	\$(100,000)
Trust Funds - Resource Indemnity Trust	\$0	\$(500,000)

EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES:

This bill specifies that the funds transferred to the noxious weed account from the highway not-restricted account and the resource indemnity trust are to be distributed to counties for weed control. The amount distributed to counties would be \$100,000 in fiscal 2002, \$600,000 in fiscal 2003, and \$100,000 in each succeeding fiscal year.

This bill changes county governments' authority to levy taxes for weed control. It contains a formula for a minimum level for funding and authorizes counties to impose a tax within a special management zone for weed control within the special management zone on approval by a majority of the voters in the zone.

TECHNICAL NOTES:

- Section 3 of SB 326 does not give the department the authority to withhold payments from county weed districts that don't submit a comprehensive weed management plan as required in Section 1.
- Section 27 codifies Section 3 into Title 80, Chapter 7, Part 7 - Weed Control. The Department of Agriculture currently administers the distribution of monies for weed management through the Noxious Weed Trust Fund program defined in Part 8 - Noxious Weed Management Funding.